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SELECT ESSAYS IN ANGLO-AMERICAN LEGAL HISTORY. By Various Authors. Compiled and Edited by a Committee of the Association of American Law Schools. In three volumes. Volume I, Boston: Little, Brown and Company, 1907. pp. ix, 847.

At the meeting of the Association of American Law Schools in 1905, a committee on the study of legal history was appointed. This committee reported to the Association in 1906 a preliminary list of titles—about one hundred and fifty in number—of leading articles on the subject of legal history. From this list about sixty articles have been chosen, and of this number we have twenty-one presented in the volume now issued. If any guarantee were needed of the thoroughness and wisdom with which the work of compilation has been done, other than the names of the distinguished compilers, it could be found in the account given by the committee of its method of work. The committee, consisting of Dean John H. Wigmore, Chairman, and Professors Ernst Freund and William E. Mikell, gathered the titles from a careful study of Jones's "Index to Legal Periodicals," the catalogue of a large library, and the ten leading legal periodicals of the country. The titles thus secured were submitted to a number of legalists for corrections and additions, and, when roughly classified, presented as a preliminary list in the report of the committee in 1906. From this list the final choice has been made.

Volume I gives us "General Surveys." Professor Maitland's "Prologue to the History of English Law," reprinted from the Pollock and Maitland's "History of English Law," is properly chosen as an introduction to Part I, "The Period Before the Norman Conquest." "The Development of Teutonic Law," by Edward Jenks, and "English Law Before the Norman Conquest," by Sir Frederick Pollock, fittingly cover the remainder of the early period. In Part II, "From the Norman Conquest to the Eighteenth Century," we have articles from Mrs. John Richard Green, Edward Jenks, F. W. Maitland, T. E. Scrutton, William Stubbs, W. S. Holsworth and James Bryce. "The American Colonial Period" is presented in Part III by Paul S. Reinsch, St. George Leakin Lionssat and Charles S. Andrews. Part IV, on the "Expansion and Reform of the Law in the Nineteenth Century," has chapters by R. Robinson, John F. Dillon, Baron Bowen, John Henry Beale, Jr., and James Bryce. Part V has an article by John Maxey Zane on "The Five Ages of the Bench and Bar of England," here published for the first time; "A Century of English Judicature," by Van Vechten Veeder, and closes with a very interesting autobiographical letter from James Kent, entitled "An American Law Student of a Hundred Years Ago." Each one of the essays has a short sketch of the author and an account of the place and time of the original publication of the article.

It will be seen by running over the list of the authors that the work of many of our most distinguished legal historians is represented. Perhaps the most gratifying thing about the collection—the more so because it is somewhat unexpected—is the impression of historical continuity that one receives on a continuous reading of the volume. It actually fulfills the hope, modestly expressed by the editors in the introduction, of giving in "outline

the legal history of the last six centuries," and, with the succeeding volumes, will form the best supplement to Pollock and Maitland's "History of English Law" now accessible in English. The publishers seem to have had in view the coordination of these volumes, as the new series has been made uniform in size and binding with the two volumes of Pollock and Maitland's "History."

That the essays will be useful in law schools as a source of supplementary reading for students, and will also be in demand by studious practitioners, seems to go without saying, but it seems somewhat difficult to determine just how they can practically be made to do for the study of legal history "exactly what the case book has done for the study of cases." The student who has to read from fifteen to twenty-five cases a day in preparation for his case book courses, is not likely to have a raging thirst for "collateral" reading, no matter how clear the springs from which this may be drawn, and to one who has seen the breakdown of historical teaching under the system of lectures with outside reading—which is never done because never called for—the prospect does not seem very bright for getting the vigorous work done on these historical essays which alone can make them of any great value to the student. This, however, is not a criticism of the essays, but simply a necessary limitation on their possible use, unless we can persuade our arts departments in the universities to adopt them for serious study in the historical courses leading to the law schools.

J. H. D.